

## § 14.626

## 38 CFR Ch. I (7–1–00 Edition)

information necessary to protect the interest of the Government. A copy of the referral to the U.S. Attorney will be sent to the General Counsel's office.

(c) In a case where the Regional Counsel determines that a claim is appropriate under the provisions of § 17.48(g) of this chapter or 38 U.S.C. 1729, for the cost of medical, hospital, or surgical care, the Regional Counsel may assert the claim and collect payment in full. The Regional Counsel may compromise, settle, waive, suspend or terminate collection activity on any claim not exceeding \$100,000. Claims in excess of \$100,000 may only be compromised, settled, or waived with the approval of the General Counsel. Any such claim not compromised, settled, or waived or where collection action is not suspended or terminated will be referred to the appropriate United States Attorney with sufficient data to enable that office to protect the interest of the Government. A copy of all materials referred to the United States Attorney will be furnished the General Counsel.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1729(c)(1))

[42 FR 41418, Aug. 17, 1977, as amended at 43 FR 10560, Mar. 14, 1978; 51 FR 23227, June 26, 1986; 58 FR 39153, July 22, 1993; 61 FR 27785, June 3, 1996]

REPRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLAIMANTS; RECOGNITION OF ORGANIZATIONS, ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES, ATTORNEYS, AGENTS; RULES OF PRACTICE AND INFORMATION CONCERNING FEES, 38 U.S.C. 5901–5905

### § 14.626 Purpose.

The purpose of the regulation of representatives is to assure that claimants for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits have qualified representation in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for veterans' benefits.

[43 FR 46535–46537, Oct. 10, 1978]

### § 14.627 Definitions.

As used in regulations on representation of Department of Veterans Affairs claimants:

(a) *Accreditation* means recognition by the Department of Veterans Affairs

of representatives, attorneys, and agents to represent claimants.

(b) *Agent* means a person who has met the standards and qualifications outlined in § 14.629(b).

(c) *Attorney* means a member in good standing of a State bar.

(d) *Benefit* means any payment, service, commodity, function, or status, entitlement to which is determined under laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs pertaining to veterans, dependents, and survivors.

(e) *Cancellation* means termination of authority to represent claimants.

(f) *Claim* means application made under title 38 U.S.C., and implementing directives, for entitlement to Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, reinstatement, continuation, or increase of benefits, or the defense of a proposed agency adverse action concerning benefits.

(g) *Claimant* means a person who has filed a written application for determination of entitlement to benefits provided under title 38 U.S.C., and implementing directives.

(h) *Recognition* means certification by the Department of Veterans Affairs of organizations to represent claimants.

(i) *Representative* means a person who has been recommended by a recognized organization and accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(j) *State* includes any State, possession, territory, or Commonwealth of the United States, and the District of Columbia.

(k) *Suspension* means temporary withholding of authority to represent claimants.

[53 FR 52419, Dec. 28, 1988]

### § 14.628 Recognition of organizations.

Authorized officers of an organization may request recognition by letter to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(a) *National organization*. An organization may be recognized as a national organization if:

(1) It was recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs prior to October 10, 1978, and continues to satisfy the requirements of § 14.628(d) of this section, or

(2) It satisfies the following requirements: